

OCT 23 2008

S/N 10/534894

PATENT**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows. No new matter has been added.

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 30-31.

Fig. 1 shows the PCR amplification results of Rhor gene in different mice. Lane 1: mice without hair; Lane 2: mice with little hair; Lane 3 and 4: normal mice.

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 23-33.

In one embodiment of the invention, a new gene was determined based on the phenotype and genetic analysis on the mice without hair, mice with little hair and mice with normal hair. The corresponding polynucleotide sequence was isolated. It encoded a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2. The polynucleotide of the invention was shown in SEQ ID NO: 1. The full-length sequence comprises 2484 bps, while the ORF is nucleotides 1-2481 and encodes a Rhor protein having 827 amino acids (SEQ ID NO: 2). The studies showed that the mutation of the gene results in the blocking of signaling, thereby influencing the development of follicular cells and causing the congenital baldness in mice. Because of the high homology in the encoding region of Rhor protein, the partial deletion of the corresponding human gene in the genome is likely to cause the congenital baldness or little hair.